

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4266

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2561

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CY

SUBJECT: GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICAL SCENE

REF: NICOSIA 2418 (DTG 191445Z AUG 76)

1. SUMMARY. THIS IS THIRD IN SERIES OF WEEKLY ROUNDUPS ON GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICAL SCENE WHICH HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY ACTIVATED BY MAKARIOS' RETURN FROM NAM CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO. AFTER MANY FALSE STARTS, MUCH DISCUSSED "POPULAR FRONT" OF PRO-MAKARIOS FORCES WITH COLLABORATION ON SLATES OF CANDIDATES, FINAL ALLOCA-
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TION OF SEATS HAS FINALLY BEEN AGREED ON FOR THREE LARGEST

DISTRICTS. END SUMMARY.

2. MAKARIOS' RETURN TO CYPRUS AUGUST 24 SET LOOSE A NEW SPATE OF RUMORS ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF INTER-PARTY COOPERATION FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS SEPT 5. NEWSPAPERS REPORTED AUGUST 26 THAT MAKARIOS HELD INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS THE DAY BEFORE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL GREEK CYPRIOT PARTIES. AT ONE MEETING CLERIDES, WHO AGAIN DEMONSTRATED HIS INDEPENDENCE OF MAKARIOS BY BEING THE ONLY MAJOR GREEK CYPRIOT POLITICAL FIGURE NOT ON HAND AT THE AIRPORT TO WELCOME THE ARCHBISHOP BACK, REPORTEDLY REJECTED THE LATTER'S OFFER OF THREE SEATS IN NICOSIA SAYING HIS DEMOCRATIC RALLY WOULD CONTEST ALL TWELVE. PRO-KYPRIANOU (DEMOCRATIC FRONT) PHILELEFTHEROS, PRO-COMMUNIST PARTY (AKEL) HARAVGHI AND PRO-LYSSARIDES (EDEK) TA NEA ALL CARRIED STORIES TO EFFECT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE THREE PRO-MAKARIOS PARTIES FOR COOPERATION IN NICOSIA, LIMASSOL, AND FAMAGUSTA DISTRICTS; IN KYRENIA, PAPHOS AND LARNACA DEMOCRATIC FRONT AND AKEO WOULD COOPERATE AND EDEK WOULD CAMPAIGN INDEPENDENTLY.

3. WHEN THE LISTS OF CANDIDATES WERE REVEALED AUGUST 26, STORIES OF INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT WERE BY AND LARGE PROVEN CORRECT. CLERIDES' DEMOCRATIC RALLY PUT UP CANDIDATES FOR ALL BUT ONE OF THE HOUSE'S 35 SEATS. DEMOCRATIC FRONT IS RUNNING 21 CANDIDATES, AKEL 9, EDEK 6 AND THERE ARE 11 INDEPENDENTS. THE MOST PROMINENT INDEPENDENT IS GREEK CYPRIOT NEGOTIATOR AND ONE-TIME CLERIDES ASSOCIATE TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS OF NICOSIA. FOR NICOSIA'S 12 SEATS, DEMOCRATIC RALLY IS FIELDING 12 CANDIDATES AGAINST A PRO-MAKARIOS SLATE OF 12 (DEMOCRATIC FRONT 7, AKEL 2, EDEK 2 AND T. PAPADOPOULOS). FOR LARNACA AND FAMAGUSTA'S 7 SEATS EACH, SEVEN DEMOCRATIC RALLY CANDIDATES FACE 7 PRO-MAKARIOS FRONT CANDIDATES (4 DEMOCRATIC FRONT, 2 AKEL, 1 EDEK). FOR PAPHOS' 4 SEATS, DEMOCRATIC RALLY'S 4 CANDIDATES ARE OPPOSED BY 3 DEMOCRATIC FRONT, 1 AKEL, 1 EDEK; FOR LARNACA'S 3 SEATS, DEMOCRATIC RALLY'S 3 CANDIDATES ARE OPPOSED BY 2 DEMOCRATIC FRONT, 1 AKEL, 1 EDEK; KYRENIA'S 2 SEATS ARE BEING CONTESTED BY 1 DEMOCRATIC RALLY, 1 DEMOCRATIC FRONT, 1 AKEL. THERE ARE 3 INDEPENDENTS RUNNING IN NICOSIA, 1 IN LIMASSOL, 1 IN FAMAGUSTA, NONE IN LARNACA, 3 IN PAPHOS, 3 IN KYRENIA.

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4. AKEL'S SLATE PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. IT CONSISTS OF THE SAME COLORLESS GERONTOCRACY WHICH HAS REPRESENTED THE COMMUNISTS IN THE HOUSE SINCE 1970. EDEK'S 6 CANDIDATES PREDICTABLY INCLUDE DR LYSSARIDES, HIS DEPUTY TAKIS HADJIDIMITRIOU, AND PARTY INTELLECTUAL RENOA PRENTZAS, BUT OTHERWISE NO FIGURES OF NATION SIGNIFICANCE. KYPRIANOU'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT WITH 21 CANDIDATES IS NOTABLE MAINLY FOR ITS BASIC

LACK OF COLOR. BESIDES KYPRIANOU HIMSELF ONLY CHRISTOS VAKIS, WHO RESIGNED AS MINISTER OF HEALTH (THE ONLY MINISTER TO DO SO) TO JOIN CAMPAIGN, PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN ALEXIS GALANOS, AND LEADER OF RIGHT-WING FARMERS UNION ANDREAS YIANGOU SEEM TO HAVE MUCH VOTER RECOGNITION.

5. CLERIDES' DEMOCRATIC RALLY SLATE, WHILE CONTAINS SEVERAL POLITICAL UNKNOWNNS, BUT SEEMS TO HAVE A GREATER NUMBER OF WELL-KNOWN BUSINESS AND POLITICAL FIGURES THAN THE DEMOCRATIC FRONT. INCLUDING CLERIDES, FIVE DEPUTIES OF NOW DEFUNCT UNIFIED PARTY ARE ON THE LIST. CLERIDES' BROTHER XANTHOS IS OFF THE LIST AND OUT OF POLITICS BUT THEIR COUSIN LEFCOS IS RUNNING. PROGRESSIVE FRONT HOUSE MEMBER HADJIKAKOU OF FAMAGUSTA HAS JOINED CLERIDES' FORCES THIS TIME AROUND, AND NICOS LANITIS AND TAKIS LEFKARITIS ARE PROMINENT INDUSTRIALISTS WHO PRESENCE ON THE TICKET SHOULD GARNER SUPPORT FOR CLERIDES IN THE BUSINESS SECTOR. BY FAR THE GREATEST SURPRISE ON CLERIDES' LIST WAS PRESENCE OF PROMINENT EOKA HERO IONNIS MATSIS WHO WAS EARLIER UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE SPURNED SUGGESTION THAT HE ENTER POLITICS. OTHER WELL-KNOWN RIGHTISTS INCLUDED DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL PARTY ACTING CHAIRMAN RENOS CHRISTOGOULIDES, SAMPSON'S LAWYER MANOLIS CHRISTOPHIDES, AND EOKA LAWYER GEORGHIOS KAIZER.

6. HOWEVER LACKLUSTER THE CANDIDATES OF THE THREE PRO-MAKARIOS PARTIES COOPERATING IN THREE MOST POPULOUS DISTRICTS (REPRESENTING 26 SEATS). IT APPEARS THAT CLERIDES IS GOING TO HAVE AN UPHILL FIGHT IN THE ELECTIONS. ALTHOUGH HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN EXUDING CONFIDENCE, THE WINNER-TAKE-ALL MAJORITY SYSTEM IN EACH DISTRICT MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO GARNER OVER 30 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE WITHOUT GAINING A SINGLE SEAT IN THE HOUSE. EVEN AT THIS LATE DATE ESTIMATES BY SUPPOSEDLY INFORMED OBSERVERS RANGE FROM 0 TO 20 SEATS
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FOR THE DEMOCRATIC RALLY. BY CONTRAST, AKEL'S 9 SEATS ARE GENERALLY REGARDED AS SECURE AND LYSSARIDES IS STILL EXPECTED TO MAKE GAIN IN THE HOUSE.
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